



AMERICAN BLACK BEAR



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Black Bears at West Point?

Yes! Over the past century, much of the eastern landscape has returned to forest and most black bear populations east of the Mississippi have increased. These increasing black bear populations often overlap suburban and rural development and human-black bear interactions are becoming more common. New York State is home to black bears in almost every county, including Orange County where West Point Military Academy is located.

Black Bear

Black bears are generally solitary animals, with the exception of adult females with cubs. Bears are usually most active for a few hours around sunrise and again around sunset.

Avoid Black Bears

Preventing black bear interactions begins with good housekeeping.

- Keep garbage cans clean and sanitary at all times, and store inside if possible
- Use bear-resistant garbage containers
- Seasonally remove attractants like food, birdseed and suet
- Feed birds during winter months only
- Bring hummingbird feeders inside at night
- Feed pets inside
- Keep barbecue pits and grills clean. Consider using aluminum foil to capture grease and dispose of promptly after use
- Do not store diapers or diaper pails outside



If You Encounter a Black Bear:

- Remain calm
- Let the bear know you're there by talking in monotone
- Don't approach the bear
- Slowly back away. Do not run
- Allow an escape route for the bear
- Leave bears in trees alone
- Remove pets and children from the area

Remember, removing bear attractants (i.e. food, trash) is the single most effective way to reduce potential interaction with bears.

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U.S. Army Garrison West Point Safety Website:
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